

That Which is Claimed

1. A system for distributing music to customer households, comprising:

a data transmission system blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to customer households;

a user station at each customer household, the user station including means permitting the customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording;

a receiver and associated recording means at each customer household for recording preselected music selections for unrestricted playback;

a central controller system having a database for storing therein an address corresponding to each customer household;

a communications link between each customer household and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been recorded;

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer households for music selections that are recorded; and

antipiracy means for including a digital ID tag into the recorded music selections to identify the customer household at which the recording is made.

2. A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

- blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to customer households by direct broadcast satellite (DBS) at data transmission rates faster than real time;
- providing each customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;
- permitting each customer household to preselect and record desired music selections in conventional format such as compact disc (CD) format;
- permitting each customer household to permanently select recorded music selections that the customer wishes to maintain for unrestricted playback and including a digital ID tag in the recorded music to identify the customer household at which the recording is made;
- communicating permanent selection information from each customer household to a central controller system; and
- billing customer households for the recorded music selections that are permanently selected.